

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 SCCT-02 EUR-25

DRC-01 NIC-01 SY-04 /179 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6122

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: ARREST OF NWFP NAP LEADERS TIED TO BOMBINGS, AFGHAN LINK
DRAWN

REF: A. LAHORE 242

B. ISLAMABAD 10464

C. KARACHI 1562

SUMMARY: SEVERAL PERSONS ARRESTED IN NWFP FOR "SUBVERSIVE
ACTIVITIES" INCLUDE PROVINCIAL NAP LEADERS, AMONG WHOM THREE
MPAS. GOVERNMENT LINKS ARRESTS TO RECENT BOMBINGS. NWFP HOMEMIN
SHERPAO SAYS PAKHTOON ZALME AND NAP WORKERS WERE TRAINED IN
BOMBING; SOME TRAINING FROM "FOREIGN COUNTRY". THOSE RECENTLY
ARRESTED NUMBERED, SHERPAO SAID, AMONG 184 ROUNDED UP IN PAST YEAR
FOR "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES". FEDERAL INTMIN QAIYUM KHAN SAID
"ALL... ARRANGEMENTS ... MADE TO CHECK SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES
FROM WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY". PRIMIN BHUTTO LINKS
AFGHANISTAN TO BOMBINGS. AFGHANS HAVE NOT, HE REPORTED, RESPONDED
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TO OUR RECENT TREATY OFFER. EMBASSY BELIEVES EVENTS REPRESENT

ANOTHER LONG STEP TOWARD REMOVAL OF NAP FROM RANKS OF LEGITIMATE POLITICAL OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. SEVERAL PERSONS, INCLUDING THREE NAP MPAS, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN NWFP IN CONNECTION WITH "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES", ACCORDING TO NWFP PRESS NOTE ISSUED IN PESHAWAR ON JULY 31. THOSE ARRESTED INCLUDE TOP PROVINCIAL NAP LEADERS - MPAS MAJ. GEN. M.G. JILANI (RTD), MOHAMMAD AFZAL KHAN, HAJI TAJ MOHAMMAD, AND PESHAWAR CITY NAP PRESIDENT GHULAM AHMED BILORE. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES REPORTED THAT ARRESTS FOLLOWED RECOVERY OF DOZEN BOMBS IN TAJ MOHAMMAD'S HOUSE NEAR NOWSHERA. TIMES QUOTED PRESS NOTE AS SAYING "ARRESTS ARE CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE TAKEN TURN FOR WORST".

2. MANY OF ARRESTED NO STRANGERS TO JAIL AS JILANI, SOMETIMES DESCRIBED AS CONFIDANT OF WALI KHAN, DETAINED FEBRUARY 1973 ON GROUNDS PREPARING REVOLT AGAINST STATE (REFTEL A); AFZAL KHAN, A FORMER PROVINCIAL MINISTER, DETAINED DECEMBER 1973 FOR OBJECTIONABLE SPEECHES; BILGORE ARRESTED UNDER DEFENSE OF PAKISTAN (DOP) RULES MAY 1974. JILANI AND AFZAL KHAN RELEASED FROM DETENTION ONLY LAST MONTH FOLLOWING WHICH AFZAL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NWFP NAP.

3. ACCORDING TO AUGUST 5 PAK TIMES ARTICLE, A WORKER FOR THE NOW-OUTLAWED PAKHTOON ZALME (MILITARY PATHAN GROUP) WAS ACCIDENTALLY KILLED BY HIS OWN TIME BOMB IN PESHAWAR. AN INJURED COMPANION WAS ARRESTED WHOSE BROTHER IS ALREADY DETAINED UNDER GOP RULES FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. PAKHTOON ZALME AND NAP WORKERS, NWFP HOME MINISTER HAYAT M.K. SHERPAO EARLIER HAD CHARGED, HAVE BEEN GIVEN TRAINING IN BOMBING IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS NWFP. "THOSE WHO IMPARTED TRAINING" HE SAID, "HAD THEMSELVES RECEIVED TRAINING FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY".

4. SHERPAO TOLD PESHAWAR PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 2 THAT THOSE RECENTLY ARRESTED IN NWFP INCLUDED AMONG 184 PERSONS ROUNDED UP DURING PAST TWELVE MONTHS IN CONNECTION WITH "DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDED BOMB EXPLOSIONS". WARRANTS FOR ARREST OF ADDITIONAL 48 PERSONS, HE SAID, HAVE BEEN ISSUED. SHERPAO WARNED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THOSE UNDER ARREST WARRANT WHO FAIL TO SURRENDER WITHIN ONE WEEK WILL HAVE THEIR PROPERTY SEIZED AND ACTION TAKEN AGAINST RELATIVES FOUND ABETTING THEM.

5. EVIDENCE, INCLUDING CONFESSION BY SEVERAL DETAINEES, COLLECTED BY GOVERNMENT DURING INVESTIGATION OF BOMB EXPLOSIONS, SHERPAO SAID, HAD PROVED THAT NAP WORKERS AND LEADERS WERE INVOLVED IN

DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING BOMBINGS. ONLY THOSE PERSONS WHO WERE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THESE ACTIVITIES, HE SAID, HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

6. WHILE ON SEVERAL DAYS TRIP TO FRONTIER, ON AUGUST 1 FEDERAL INTERIOR MINISTER QAIYUM KHAN, REFERRING TO ARRESTS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN NWFP, SAID THAT "DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS WOULD NO LONGER BE PERMITTED INDULGE IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES". PAK TIMES QUOTED QAIYUM AS SAYING "ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CHECK SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES FROM WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY". QAIYUM ALSO CONTINUED ADMINISTRATION ATTACK ON WALI, WHO HE CHARGED WITH "FOLLOWING PATH OF REVOLT AGAINST PAKISTAN". (PRIMIN BHUTTO, OF COURSE, HAS SHARPLY ATTACKED WALI IN PAST SEVERAL WEEKS WHILE ON TRIPS TO NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN.)

7. "AFGHANISTAN'S INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS" RESULTED IN "CERTAIN EXPLOSIONS" IN QUETTA RECENTLY, PRIMIN BHUTTO TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN QUETTA ON AUGUST 4. "SUCH (A) CONSPIRACY WAS DETECTED IN NWFP" HE SAID AND "WE WILL DETECT THIS CONSPIRACY IN BALUCHISTAN TOO AND ELIMINATE SUCH NUISANCES". "WE WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY INTERFERENCE BY AFGHANISTAN", BHUTTO DECLARED, "IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS". ITEM CARRIED BY AUGUST 5 PAKISTAN TIMES HEADLINED "KABUL AT BACK OF EXPLOSIONS". FOREIGN LINK WITH BOMBINGS HAD BEEN CLAIMED EARLIER BY NWFP HOME MIN SHERPAO.

8 GOP HAS HAD NO RESPONSE FROM GOA, BHUTTO TOLD PRESS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, TO OFFER OF TREATY OF NON-AGGRESSION, NON-INTERFERENCE AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BASED ON BANDUNG PRINCIPALS. BHUTTO OFFER REPORTED REFTEL C.

9. COMMENT: EMBASSY UNABLE TO JUDGE IF NAP LEADERS RESPONSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR RECENT SPATE OF NWFP BOMBINGS WHICH, IF INDEED OF NAP ORIGIN, MAY BE WORK OF YOUNG RADICALS WORKING ON OWN. IN FACT, WITHIN PAST TWO WEEKS, SHERPAO TOLD AMCONSUL PESHAWAR THAT GOP HAD NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE SHOWING WHO INVOLVED. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED REFTEL B, NAP LEADERS MAY HAVE GIVEN PERMISSION TO PARTY WORKERS TO CARRY OUT ACTS OF VIOLENCE AS POLITICAL WEAPON AGAINST GOVERNMENT. GOP CHARGES THAT AFGHANISTAN, TOO, INVOLVED IN BOMBINGS REPRESENT STEP UP IN ANTI-AFGHAN INVECTIVE. WHILE OFFICIALS HAVE IN PAST MADE VEILED MENTION OF GOA INVOLVEMENT IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, THIS FIRST TIME DIRECT LINK WITH BOMBINGS DRAWN.

10. WHATEVER THE BASIS OF ALL THESE ALLEGATIONS, EVENTS OUTLINED

IN THIS MESSAGE SEEM TO REPRESENT LONG FURTHER STEP TOWARD

REMOVAL (BY ITS OWN ACTIONS AND BY THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVES AND
COUNTERMOVES) OF NAP FROM RANK OF LEGITIMATE POLITICAL OPPOSITION
IN PAKISTAN.
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